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Goschka and Kahn tout New Public Act that saves counties money

Effort saves tax-dollars spent on inmate healthcare

LANSING – Legislation sponsored by Senator Mike Goschka (R-Brant) that would save counties money on the cost of inmate healthcare has been signed into law by the governor.

“After hearing the concerns of local leaders, Representative Kahn, (R-Saginaw Township) and I teamed up to save counties precious tax-dollars,” Goschka said. “I’m pleased that my colleagues as well as the Governor have agreed to this common-sense approach. I also want to thank Representative Kahn for his work in moving this bill through the House so quickly.”

The Goschka legislation requires that healthcare providers first seek reimbursement for treatment of a county jail inmate from the inmate’s insurance company, health care corporation or other coverage provider before seeking payment from the county. Previously, state law mandated that the county pay the entire healthcare bill of an inmate before any third-party reimbursement could be sought.

“I am very proud to have worked with Senator Goschka and Saginaw County governmental leaders in getting this legislation through the House and passed into law,” Kahn said. “This has always been a cash flow issue, and no county should have to put precious resources up front -- hard earned tax payer’s money -- to pay a covered inmate’s medical expenses. This will save tax payers thousands of dollars.”

The need for this legislation was first identified and advocated by Saginaw County Sheriff Charles Brown and Saginaw County Commissioner Ann Doyle.

Senate Bill 736, now Public Act 20 of 2006, was approved unanimously by both the Senate and House of Representatives.